

**PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
ELY DISTRICT MANAGED NATURAL AND PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN
EA NV-040-00-020**



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This programmatic environmental assessment (EA) will analyze the effects of both managed natural and prescribed fires within the Ely District. A Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) will be issued for managed natural fires. For each prescribed fire, a site-specific EA will be written incorporating by reference this programmatic EA. A separate DR/FONSI will be prepared for each prescribed fire.

This programmatic EA is tiered from and incorporates by reference the Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (FEIS) dated June 5, 1991. The Record of Decision for this FEIS states, "For reference purposes, the decision is labeled alternative 1. Alternative 1 maintains flexibility to use all available vegetation management tools. The techniques proposed for use in an integrated management program include preventative actions to avoid or minimize environmental harm resulting from implementation, biological control (includes insects, pathogens, and domestic animals), prescribed burning, mechanical practices, manual practices, and chemical control."

A. Need for the Proposal

The need for the proposal is to comply with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, dated 1995, which states that fire "... must be reintroduced into the ecosystem." and "... every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved Fire Management Plan..."

B. Relationship to Planning

Implementation of the proposed Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan is in conformance with the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP), approved November 1981; the Schell Resource Area MFP, dated June 1983; and the Egan Resource Management Plan (RMP) prepared in 1984. The Caliente Resource Area became a part of the Ely District in 1996. The Caliente MFP Step 3 Decision R-6.1 states, "Develop a comprehensive fire management plan for the entire planning unit based on vegetative type, ecological relationships, the effect of different suppression techniques, and human use patterns." In addition, the decision goes on to say this comprehensive fire plan should be completed within two years and consider other resource management recommendations. The Schell MFP Step 3 Decision FR-1.1 states, "Develop a Fire Management Plan for the Resource Area that would identify where initial attack and subsequent suppression would be actively pursued and areas where fire suppression would be modified, dependent on resource objectives, fuel, and weather conditions." The Record of Decision (ROD) for Egan RMP which was signed on February 3, 1987, states, "A resource area-

wide fire management plan will be developed which allows a broad spectrum of uses. Fire would be used as a tool when it is the most effective and efficient method for improving habitat and increasing available forage.”

The proposed plan would also implement specific management actions identified in various activity plans such as allotment management plans/evaluations, habitat management plans, and elk management plans.

The proposed Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan is consistent with the Lincoln County Policy Plan for Public Lands (December 5, 1984), the White Pine County Policy Plan for Public Lands (May 1, 1985), and the Nye County Policy Plan for Public Lands (April 3, 1985). The proposed plan would assist in meeting the Standards developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin and Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Councils. Specifically, the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Guideline 3.8 states, “Vegetation manipulation treatments may be implemented to improve native plant communities, consistent with appropriate land use plans, in areas where identified Standards cannot be achieved through proper grazing management practices alone. Fire is the preferred vegetation manipulation practice on areas historically adapted to fire; treatment of native vegetation with herbicides or through mechanical means will be used only when other management techniques are not effective.” The Northeastern Great Basin Guideline 3.4 states, “Where grazing practices alone are not likely to achieve habitat objectives, land treatments may be designed and implemented as appropriate.”

C. Major Issues

No major issues which impact the human environment have been identified. Resources which may be impacted are listed in Section III of the proposed Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement the Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan beginning in June 2000. The life of the plan is expected to be 20 years. This plan encompasses 3.4 million acres of the 11.7 million acres of public land within the Ely District (Figure 1). Standard operating procedures are listed in Appendix E of the proposed Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan. Monitoring is discussed in detail in Section VI of the proposed plan. It is anticipated that with the implementation of this plan there would be fewer large, hot fires and more small fires that are less intense.

B. No Action

The no action alternative is to continue full suppression on all wildland fires. Continued suppression of all fires would lead to further accumulation of fuels, increasing the chance of more large, hot fires; increasing hazards to fire fighters and to the public; and increasing fire suppression costs. Prescribed fires would be used on a limited basis.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A description of the affected environment can be found in the Ely District land use plans (Caliente MFP, Schell MFP, and Egan RMP) and associated environmental statements. A detailed description of the resources included in the 3.4 million acres covered by the proposed Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan is found in Section I.C. of the plan.

Site-specific descriptions of portions of the affected environment are included, as needed, in the Environmental Consequences section of this EA to facilitate understanding of anticipated impacts.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The following critical elements of the human environment are either not present or are not affected by the proposed action or alternative: Prime or unique farmlands, flood plains, areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, environmental justice, paleontological resources, and hazardous and solid wastes.

Air Quality

Proposed Action

There may be some short-term impacts to air quality resulting from smoke which may last for several hours to several days at or near the fire. In the brush and grass vegetation types, smoke would dissipate rapidly and should be gone shortly after the fire. In the pinyon-juniper, curlleaf mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer communities, there would be some residual smoke for approximately one to five days after active burning. Unforeseen weather changes may carry the smoke toward sensitive receptors, such as communities, residences, highway corridors, and recreation areas.

The long-term effects of the proposed fire plan would create a mosaic of fuels with a corresponding decrease in fuel loading which would reduce the number of large, hot fires. This would result in a reduction of total smoke emissions.

No Action

Continued suppression of all fires would lead to further accumulation of fuels, increasing the chance of more large, hot fires. The amount of smoke produced by uncontrolled wildland fires would exceed that produced by managed and prescribed fires. The chance of sensitive receptors also being impacted would increase. In the long-term there would be greater degradation of air quality.

Soils and Watershed Characteristics

Proposed Action

The short-term impacts would vary depending on the soil type, soil moisture conditions, and severity of the fire. Vegetation and microbial crust would be removed during a fire resulting in the potential for increased runoff and soil erosion. In addition, nitrogen fixation would be reduced. Soil temperature would increase during a fire. After a fire, the presence of dark burned material on the soil surface would usually cause the soil to heat up faster than vegetated or unburned soil. The effects of soil heating would vary according to how hot the fire burns. Soil heating impacts would be the greatest in vegetation types where there is a heavy duff buildup. This is found in the mixed conifer, curlleaf mountain mahogany, closed-canopy pinyon-juniper, and mountain brush communities. Burns in closed canopy pinyon-juniper communities could cause reduced infiltration, and increased carbon, potassium, phosphorus, and nitrogen levels in the soil during the first year. Runoff could carry some of the potassium and phosphorus away.

Fire would increase available nutrients in the soil assisting in plant re-establishment. Following the re-establishment of herbaceous vegetation, wind and water erosion would be minimized. Cryptogamic crusts would increase. The hydrological characteristics of watersheds would improve because of the diverse age class of vegetation, increase in vegetation cover, improved infiltration, and reduction in runoff. Soil and watershed characteristics would improve in the long-term.

No Action

Because wildland fires would be larger and burn hotter under the no action alternative, there would be a greater increase in soil erosion in the short-term. There would also be a reduction in nutrient recycling. Soil temperatures would be higher.

Water Quality and Quantity

Proposed Action

Immediately after any fire, surface runoff and sediment load would increase because of the loss of vegetation. Intermittent and perennial streams would experience greater peak flows. This

would only last for one or two years after the fire, or until the vegetation re-established. In the long-term there would be an increase in infiltration because of the increase in herbaceous cover. Intermittent streams would flow for a longer period. Perennial streams would flow more. The flow at springs would also increase.

No Action

Surface runoff and sediment load would increase more because the vegetation would be removed over a larger area under the no action alternative. Because natural rehabilitation would not occur as quickly after these hotter fires, the increase in runoff and sediment load would last longer.

Vegetation

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, managed natural and prescribed fires would be allowed to burn under more ideal conditions. This would allow for natural rehabilitation. There would be a decrease in plant productivity for the first few years after a fire. Vegetation communities would be converted to an earlier successional stage, stimulating new growth. Composition would change from primarily woody species to herbaceous species. The increase in herbaceous species would occur because of the reduced competition for light, moisture, and nutrients. In addition, by reducing the accumulation of litter and humus, sites would be more favorable for seedling establishment. In the long-term, total plant productivity would increase.

In sagebrush communities, the density and canopy cover of sagebrush would be reduced. Herbaceous species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian ricegrass, basin wildrye, Sandberg bluegrass, muttongrass, Nevada bluegrass, and Canby bluegrass would increase in density and production. In addition, perennial forbs would also increase. Encroachment of pinyon and juniper into sagebrush communities would be reduced.

In pinyon-juniper communities decadent stands of trees would be opened allowing for regeneration of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and young trees. This would increase plant diversity and age class over the entire area.

In the mountain brush communities certain species of shrubs resprout vigorously after fire. Serviceberry, snowberry, and ribes species would increase in the northern mountain brush community, while desert bitterbrush, Gambel oak, and Turbinella oak would increase in the southern mountain brush community. Antelope bitterbrush, an important species in the northern brush community, may not resprout after a fire.

Aspen communities would be enhanced. Burning decadent stands of aspen would allow young aspen suckers to sprout. In addition, it would reduce sagebrush and mixed conifer trees which are encroaching into the aspen stands.

Fuel loading and fuel continuity would be reduced in mixed conifer communities under the proposed action. This would reduce the chance of large, stand-replacing fires. Species composition would increase. Overall forest health of mixed conifer communities would improve.

In the long-term, there would be a greater diversity of plant communities throughout the plan area. In addition, there would be different successional stages within each vegetation type. This mosaic of communities would eventually allow the return of fire back into the ecosystem.

No Action

Under the no action alternative fuels would continue to accumulate especially in the different vegetation communities. This would lead to more large, hot fires. Under these conditions, all vegetation including grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees would be killed. The chance for natural rehabilitation would be reduced. Annual grasses (i.e., cheatgrass) and weeds could become established. This would increase the chance of more fires burning larger areas. Species diversity would be reduced. The overall productivity of vegetation communities would be reduced.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds

Proposed Action

As with any surface disturbing activity, there would be some risk that noxious and invasive plant species would increase in the area. Under the proposed action, however, there would be an increase in native species diversity and productivity which would create a more competitive atmosphere against noxious and invasive weeds. This would reduce the potential spread of noxious and invasive plants into the sites.

No Action

Because there would be more large, hot fires, native vegetation would be removed which would result in a greater chance of spreading noxious and invasive weeds.

Riparian

Proposed Action

There would be a temporary deterioration of riparian areas after a managed natural fire because of the loss of vegetation and the increase in sediment load. This impact would be reduced after a prescribed fire because of the conditions under which a prescribed fire would be allowed to burn. The vegetation should grow back quickly. With increased water flows, riparian areas should expand under the proposed action.

No Action

Under the no action alternative, the deterioration of riparian areas would be greater because of greater sediment loading from the larger burned areas.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Proposed Action

Some special status plant and animal species, including federally designated threatened and endangered species, could be impacted by the proposed action. Impacts would be minimal because any special status species would be identified during the planning of managed natural and prescribed fires.

Individual plants and animals could be lost in a fire. Although this would be a permanent loss of the individual, it should not affect the local population or the species in the long-term.

Immediately after any fire, there would be a negative impact to special status animal species because of the loss of vegetation cover. This impact would be limited to the first year after a fire, or until natural rehabilitation occurred.

Under the proposed action, sagebrush communities would be improved through increased plant diversity and age class. This would benefit sage grouse in the long-term. In addition, sage grouse would benefit from expansion of riparian areas.

No Action

Under the no action alternative, special status species would be negatively impacted because of the loss of habitat resulting from more large, hot fires. Loss of anymore sage grouse habitat could result in this species being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Wildlife

Proposed Action

Individuals of some wildlife species (e.g., small reptiles, small birds, and small mammals) would be killed during a managed natural or prescribed fire. Although this would be a permanent loss of the individual, it would not affect the local population or the species in the long-term. In most cases, large animals would be able to escape a fire.

The proposed action would have a short-term negative impact on most wildlife because of the loss of vegetative cover. This impact would occur every year there is a fire, but would be limited only to the actual area burned, and normally for only the first year after the fire. In the long-term, as the size of individual fires is reduced, this impact to wildlife would be lessened.

In the long-term, the overall impact to wildlife would be positive because of the improvement in wildlife habitat condition resulting from managed natural and prescribed fires. The increase in understory vegetation (i.e., perennial grasses and forbs) and the increase in species diversity on burned areas several years after a fire would benefit most species of wildlife. Some woody species, like antelope bitterbrush, may not resprout after a fire. This would be a negative impact on mule deer; however, the identification of 300 acre, 500 acre, and 1,000 acre confinement zones in the proposed plan would lessen this impact. Over a large area, the mosaic created by having small burned and unburned areas would benefit wildlife.

No Action

The no action alternative would have a greater negative impact on wildlife in the short-term and in the long-term because of the anticipated increase in more large, hot fires over the next twenty years. More wildlife would be killed by the fires, and the initial loss of vegetative cover would be greater. The vegetative response after most large, hot fires is a decrease in perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs, and an increase in noxious and invasive weeds. This would result in a deterioration in wildlife habitat condition. The mosaic created under the proposed action would not be realized under the no action alternative.

Wild Horses

Proposed Action

The proposed action would have direct and indirect impacts to wild horses. For prescribed fire, wild horses would be directly impacted due to displacement during and after the fire until the next growing season. Following prescribed fire treatments, wild horses would be drawn to recovering vegetation, slowing the rate of recovery of the burned areas. Indirectly, multiple use resource conflicts could also develop, and removal or exclusion strategies would become necessary. Impacts to wild horses from managed natural fire would be the same as those for prescribed fire. After a fire, habitat condition would be improved by increases in forage abundance, forage diversity, and water availability which would be positive for wild horses. Habitat condition would be improved. Under the proposed action, impacts would generally be beneficial over the long-term as habitat conditions improve and fire is allowed to resume a more natural role in the ecosystem. Fires would become smaller in size impacting relatively smaller blocks of habitat within a use area.

No Action

Under the no action alternative, fuel loads would continue to accumulate and more large, hot fires would occur. Wild horses would become increasingly affected as more acres within in herd management areas (HMAs) would be burned. Larger, hotter fires within HMAs would burn cover, and forage. Wild horses would shift their grazing patterns to the edges of the HMA.

Livestock Grazing

Proposed Action

Some range improvement projects (i.e., corrals, fences, pipelines) could be destroyed by managed natural fires. This would directly impact the livestock permittee. Although these projects could be rebuilt, it would take time and money. Prescribed fires would be designed to avoid destroying any range improvement projects.

The proposed action would have a short-term negative impact to livestock grazing. Burned areas could not be used by livestock for at least two growing seasons after the fire, or until monitoring studies indicate management objectives for site recovery have been met. BLM and the livestock permittee would work together to find other grazing areas and/or alternative methods (i.e., fencing, herding, watering) to keep livestock off the burned areas. These impacts would mainly affect livestock permittees on small allotments. After the vegetation recovers, livestock grazing would be allowed back on the areas.

In the long-term, there would be an increase in forage available for livestock grazing from implementation of the Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan. Most fires occur in the pinyon-juniper vegetation communities, and where pinyon and juniper trees are encroaching into the sagebrush and mountain brush vegetative communities. Currently these communities produce very little forage for livestock grazing because of the dense overstory of trees and shrubs. After a fire there would be an increase in understory vegetation (i.e., perennial grasses and forbs).

No Action

The no action alternative would have a greater negative impact on livestock grazing in the short-term and in the long-term because of the anticipated increase in more large, hot fires over the next twenty years. More range improvements would be destroyed by these fires. Larger areas would have to be rested from grazing and likely for a longer period of time to allow the vegetation to recover after these fires. The vegetative response after most large, hot fires would be a decrease in perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs, and an increase in noxious and invasive weeds. This would result in less forage for livestock grazing.

Cultural Resources

Proposed Action

Impacts of managed natural and prescribed fire on cultural resources would be the same as in any wildfire. During the life of the plan an unknown number of additional fire-sensitive archeological resources and historic properties (i.e., rock art sites, buildings and structures) may be identified and protected from damage and destruction by wildfire as a result of

implementation of the management actions in the plan. There may be a greater number of archeological and historical resources added to the inventory done within the Ely District and an increased knowledge of locations and types of cultural resources. Non fire-sensitive resources (i.e., chipped stone, ground stone, glass, and cans) would continue to be altered by wildfire effects in both managed natural fire and prescribed fire projects.

No Action

Ground disturbing activities (e.g., bulldozers, handlines and cross country vehicle travel during wildfire events) associated with full suppression of wildfire could result in the destruction of cultural resources.

Native American Religious Concerns

Proposed Action

No known religious sites would be affected. Traditional values, such as pinenut harvesting, may be adversely impacted by managed natural fire if a fire burns an area traditionally used by the Native Americans. This impact would last until mature pinyon trees are reestablished.

No Action

The increased chance of more large, hot fires could impact religious sites as well as traditional values. There would be a greater potential for burning pinenut harvesting areas under the no action alternative.

Recreation

Proposed Action

The use of managed natural fires and prescribed fires would result in displacing dispersed recreation users from the burned areas during, and immediately after fire. Depending on the type of recreational activity, this impact may last up to several years after the fire. Fire in or near developed recreation sites could effect the quality of a visitor's experience due to smoke, and health and safety concerns. Using prescribed fire to create fire breaks could be beneficial in protecting developed recreation sites. Consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife activities would increase because of the improvement in wildlife habitat resulting from the proposed action. Vegetative mosaics from managed natural and prescribed fires could also increase the number and variety of wild flowers for viewing.

No Action

The potential for more large, hot fires would continue, and could affect both dispersed recreation

and use of developed recreation sites. Dispersed recreation use could decrease as wildlife habitat degrades and areas become unattractive for recreation. Safety concerns would arise if fires occurred in, or near developed recreation sites. Under the no action alternative, more people would be placed in danger.

Visual Resource Management

Proposed Action

The use of managed natural fire and prescribed fire could result in form, line, color and texture contrasts. In general, these contrasts would be of small scale associated with the landscape. Form contrasts could arise from fingers of burned areas within a landscape of generally small, irregular patches of vegetation, soil and rock outcrops. Fire blackened, dead vegetation interspersed with areas of unaltered, live vegetation would create color contrasts. The color of the landscape would be initially altered and could remain largely noticeable to the casual observer for three years or longer. The alteration of smooth to moderately rough vegetation to a rougher landscape could result in texture contrasts. Constructed fuel breaks could also create line contrasts.

As the revegetation of shrubs and grasses occur, the fire's visual effects would become less noticeable. It is probable that the overall, long-term visual impact to the burned area would be positive. The change would add diversity to the landscape and vegetation composition, as well as allow for greater visual variety in the landscape. Class I VRM objectives could be met because the action would preserve the existing character of the landscape by allowing for natural ecological change. Class II, III, and IV objectives could also be met.

No Action

More large, hot fires could create larger scale contrasts associated with the landscape. Form contrasts would arise from the large, irregular shaped burned areas within a landscape of generally small, irregular patches of vegetation, soil and rock outcrops. Color contrasts would result when the fire blackened, dead vegetation is compared to areas of unaltered, live vegetation. The alteration of smooth to moderately rough vegetation to a rougher landscape could result in large scale texture contrast. Constructed fuel breaks would create line contrasts. Class III and IV VRM objectives would be met. However, Class I and II VRM objectives may not be met.

Wilderness Values

Proposed Action

Use of managed natural and prescribed fires would help maintain the plant diversity in, and health of, fire-dependent natural ecosystems in WSAs. This could improve or enhance the WSAs' naturalness through the restoration of native plant communities. Under the proposed action, fire would increase vegetative mosaics and reduce fuel loading and continuity. Fire

would also assist in restoration of native plant communities and fire frequency return intervals.

No Action

Managed fire would not be available to improve or enhance the naturalness of the WSA. The potential for stand-replacing fires within the mixed conifer communities would continue. This could reduce wilderness values, especially within smaller WSAs.

Mining Facilities and Mine Claims

Proposed Action

There is a chance that mining claim posts could be burned in a managed natural or prescribed fire. These claims may then need to be resurveyed and restaked. This would be an economic burden on the claimant.

No Action

Impacts to mine claims under the no action alternative would be the same as those described in the proposed action. Because of the potential for more large, hot fires, more mine claims could be impacted through the loss of additional mine claim posts being burned.

Forest Resources

Proposed Action

Forest resources which would be impacted include firewood, pine nuts, fenceposts, and Christmas trees. Impacts to firewood would be positive. Burning pinyon and juniper removes canopy foliage and kills the trees, making them more desirable for harvesting. The proposed action would result in a localized reduction of pine nuts. This impact would last for several years or until the stand recovers and resumes production.

As managed natural and prescribed fire is introduced to these sites, some fenceposts and Christmas trees would be lost in the short-term. In the long-term, the conditions for suitable fencepost and Christmas tree production would be improved. Seedlings would establish easier because of less competition for light, space, and nutrients.

No Action

Under the no action alternative, the potential for large-scale loss of woodland resources would increase as a result of more large, hot fires.

Fire Management

Proposed Action

The proposed action would improve firefighting safety, reduce costs of fire suppression, and reduce the burned acres requiring rehabilitation. Firefighting safety would be improved during managed natural fires because the need for direct attack fire suppression actions would be reduced. Natural and manmade barriers, such as ridge tops and roads, would be used to control fires. This would also reduce the costs of fire suppression. In addition, there would be less need for national resources (i.e., air tankers and overhead teams) that could be used for higher priority fires.

Under the proposed action less burned acres would require rehabilitation because managed natural fires would be smaller. In the long-term as plant diversity improves in the different vegetation communities, natural rehabilitation would occur after fires reducing the need to seed burned areas.

No Action

Firefighting would be more dangerous during large, hot fires. The costs of suppressing such fires would increase. More burned acres would need to be seeded because the native vegetation would be killed during these large, hot fires.

Cumulative Impacts

In the past 40 years, approximately 274,000 acres of vegetation conversion projects have been completed in the Ely District. These projects were designed to reduce the cover of sagebrush or pinyon and juniper trees, and increase the understory vegetation through seeding grasses and forbs. The following table represents the past 15 years of fire history within the Ely District.

Table 1. Ely District Fire History

Years	Number of Fires	BLM Acres Burned	Number of Fires Between 1,000 - 5,000 Acres	Number of Fires Greater than 5,000 Acres
1985-1989	556	27,874	5	1
1990-1994	487	9,012	3	0
1995-1999	1,074	128,201	16	8
TOTAL	2,117	165,087	24	9

The Ely District Fire Management Plan, approved in 1998, stated that an additional 50,000 acres of vegetation conversion projects would be completed annually. Most of these projects have been, or will be identified in site-specific activity plans (e.g., Allotment Management Plans, Elk Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans). Any method of treatment, including manual, mechanical, biological, chemical, prescribed fire, and managed natural fires, could be used. It is difficult to estimate how many acres will be burned each year for the next 20 years.

Past vegetation conversion projects and wildfires have impacted less than four percent of public lands in the Ely District. Vegetation conversion projects proposed for the future could impact an additional eight percent. These past projects have improved the vegetation condition and increased species diversity on areas dominated by sagebrush or with closed stands of pinyon and juniper trees. This has resulted in a mosaic of vegetation types and different age class structure in those areas where the projects were completed. The proposed action would have similar results on a much larger percentage of the Ely District.

V. PROPOSED MITIGATING MEASURES

At the present time there have been no mitigating measures proposed to minimize impacts.

VI. SUGGESTED MONITORING

The Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan establishes monitoring procedures and reporting requirements for fire management, vegetation management, watershed, and human resource management objectives. These procedures can be found in section VI, page 20.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Intensity of Public Interest and Record of Contacts

In 1995, the Ely District began to implement the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review. A technical review team (TRT) was formed to prepare a fire management plan which would allow fire to resume a more natural ecological role for all lands within the Ely District. The Ely District Fire Management Plan was approved in August 1998, and an environmental assessment analyzing the impacts of managed wildland fires within the Snake Mountain Range was prepared in October 1998. It was determined that the scoping done for these two documents was adequate in identifying issues pertaining to the proposed action in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan.

The Ely District Managed Natural and Prescribed Fire Plan and subsequent programmatic environmental assessment will be mailed to representatives from state agencies, local government entities, and affected and interested publics for review.

Internal District Review

Mark Barber	Riparian Areas
Lynn Bjorklund	Minerals
Shane DeForest	Noxious Weeds and Wild Horses
Gene Drais	Assistant Field Manager-Nonrenewable Resources
Bill Dunn	Fire Management Officer
Mark Henderson	Archeology
Sue Howle	Environmental Coordination
Eric Luse	Associate Field Manager
Mike Main (Team Leader)	Fire Ecology
Gary Medlyn	Soil, Water, Air
Jim Perkins	Assistant Field Manager-Renewable Resources
Paul Podborny	Range and Wildlife
Curtis Tucker	Native American Consultation
Matt Wilkin	GIS Coordinator